

The Baptist Record

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World's largest archipelago focus of '93 mission study

By Sarah Peugh



A TIME TO REJOICE — A young woman performs a traditional dance at a wedding in Indonesia, a country which Southern Baptists will feature in the 1993 Foreign Mission Study, "Indonesia: Missions in Transition." (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

1993 video mission study tells story of Baptist missionary efforts in Indonesia

By Donald D. Martin

KEDIRI, Indonesia (BP) — When three Southern Baptist missionaries in the mid-1950s opened a rural medical clinic in Indonesia, local leaders scoffed, saying a shoe box would easily hold all the patients' records.

"It certainly didn't look very promising for three white, Christian women in a backwater, mostly Muslim town in Indonesia," said Kathleen Jones, recalling her time working in rural Kediri as a missionary physician with missionary nurses Everley Hayes and Ruth Ford.

From the start the three women had to prove themselves in Indonesia, home to the largest Muslim population in the world, according to the adult 1993 Foreign Mission Study, "Indonesia: Missions in Transition."

In Kediri, one village leader told Jones, Hayes, and Ford that foreign women would find few Indonesians willing to come for treatment, much less attend the Sunday School they planned to lead in the garage of their home.

And, when they asked where they could buy a file cabinet to hold patient registration cards, the leader said that a shoe box would

be big enough.

Yet the clinic outgrew that advice in less than a month. And though the three missionaries treated only 10 patients the first day, they had ministered to more than 100 people by the end of the month.

"From then on we never slowed down," Jones recalled. "It was amazing."

Today, the patient load has not only outgrown a shoe box, but the clinic as well. In its place, a 152-bed facility treats more than 85,000 patients a year. Currently, the Kediri Baptist Hospital sponsors a nursing school and has added a dental clinic.

Indonesia's first three Southern Baptist missionaries arrived Christmas day, 1951, in the nation's capital, Jakarta. Buren Johnson, Charles Cowherd, and Stockwell Sears left their wives — Kate, Marion, and Darlyne — in the United States for a time to begin laying the foundations in Indonesia for Baptist work. Indonesia, where Foreign Mission Board Presidents Keith Parks and Jerry Rankin began their missionary careers, now has 77 Southern Baptist mission personnel assigned there.

Indonesia is not the subject of many U.S. media news reports or TV documentaries. One does not see many imports stamped, "Made in Indonesia."

But exports are providing economic growth to the Indonesian economy. Embassy Consul Hannief Djohan told me recently in an interview at the Indonesian embassy in Washington, D.C. I told him everything seems to be made in Taiwan, China, or Germany, and added I bought a bottle of black pepper in a Moscow, Russia, new joint-venture store which was marked, "Made in Indonesia."

"We have a very stable economy," replied Concul Djohan (pronounced Yo-Han). "Our economic growth is 8% with inflation at one digit. Our ministers of finance and trade have doctorates from Harvard."

Americans don't see "Made in Indonesia" on the \$10.7 billion of oil and gas Indonesia exports, or the \$9 billion of mining products, or \$15 billion of industrial goods

such as the large overseas containers manufactured in Jakarta.

The largest archipelago in the world, Indonesia consists of five major and 30 smaller islands, the five being Sumatra, Java, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, and Irian Jaya, part of the island of New Guinea. The Tourist Board slogan is "Let's Go Archipelago!"

One hundred eighty million people live on Indonesia's 1,700 islands which span an area 3,000 miles east to west and 1,100 miles north to south.

"August 17 is a very important day for us," Djohan told me. "We celebrate our independence from the Dutch — 48 years in 1993. There are four days of celebration with parades and ceremonies at President Soeharto's palace: Indonesia has a long history of Dutch colonialism from 1596 until March 1942 with Japanese occupation. In 1945 our proclamation for independence was broadcast over radio Jakarta: 'We the people of Indonesia, herewith declare the independence of Indonesia.'"

The consul kept me one and a half hours, telling of the wonders of his country. He took me through the beautiful embassy (circa 1903), which was built as a private residence during Theodore Roosevelt's presidency for Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Walsh, who made their fortune in Colorado gold mining. Consul Djohan told me Mrs. Walsh was the last owner of the 44.5 carat Hope diamond, now in the Smithsonian.

"This building, from 1903-1951, was used for various offices such as the Rural Electrification Commission and the American Red Cross," Djohan said, "until our first ambassador purchased it in 1951 at a cost of \$335,000."

The entrance to the embassy was as interesting as its architecture, with the Indonesian red-on-top-of-white flag waving over it. Underneath the flag was the coat of arms, with the same motto as our Mississippi and National Federation of Women's Clubs, "Unity in Diversity," translated in Indonesian as "Bhinneka Tunggal Ijaz."

Within the coat of arms, an eagle's claws hold five *pancasila* (philosophy): the star, representing belief in the one and only God; the chain, representing just and civilized humanity; the tree, representing unity; the bull's head with horns, representing democracy; and wheat, represent-

ing social justice.

Djohan said in Indonesia's 27 provinces there is freedom of religion: 85% of the population is Muslim, 10% is Christian and Catholic.

There are 500 members in the House of Representatives, and 1,000 members in the People's Assembly. Indonesian women serve as ambassadors to Norway, Denmark, and Sweden. Education is free and mandatory. English is required in secondary school. There are 300 universities in the archipelago.

I asked about family planning, to which Djohan replied there is no demand for abortion because of the sex of a child. He said his country advocated condom use rather than abortion.

Indonesia is on the equator and there is no summer, winter, or fall — only the dry and wet seasons.

Indonesia will be the featured country of the 1993 Adult Foreign Mission Study. The title of the study, which will be presented for the first time in a new video format, is "Indonesia: Missions in Transition."

Peugh lives in Aberdeen.



A QUIET MOMENT — Satiman, an Indonesian Baptist, bows to pray in a home fellowship in Indonesia, a country Southern Baptists entered in 1951 with three missionary couples who had been forced to leave China after the communist takeover. "God always opens one door when he closes another; we felt this (Indonesia) was an open door," said Darlyne Sears. She and her husband, Stockwell Sears, retired from foreign missions in 1985 and live in St. Joseph, Mo. Today Indonesian Baptists number more than 35,000 members in 260 churches and 300 mission points. Southern Baptists have 77 personnel assigned to the country. (BP photo by Joanna Pinneo)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

State missions — plus or minus

Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the world were the missionary field assignments. Some would like to build a wall or demarcation between each one. Others would want to rank them one through four, with four being the greatest. The assignment was the same in each place, being witnesses for Christ. Mission work in Jerusalem was just as important as mission work in Rome. Today, the Gulf Coast is in need just as is the Ivory Coast.

We have some ministries in our state in dire need. One church or even an association of churches cannot do all that needs to be done in certain areas. The state penitentiary at Parchman touches the lives of almost 6,000 prisoners, plus their families, which may bring the number to 24,000. There are over 2,000 employees and guards and their families in that community, which may equal 8,000 people. Someone is needed to minister in each area.

Charles and Hazel Jones are Baptist missionaries working with the employees and families at

Parchman. What church can plan a VBS for this group or a stress seminar or marriage enrichment seminar? They can help support missionaries to do this and much more. They also coordinate all the volunteer chaplains. This year, \$20,000 of your state mission offering will be used to help the Joneses carry on their missionary work.

Where can we teach our children about all the missionary activities of Southern Baptists? Camp Garaywa and Central Hills Retreat inspire the youths to look seriously at these efforts in an atmosphere for Christian development. The state missions offering will provide \$350,000 for these camps and conference centers.

Mobile chapels are needed; site purchase assistance for new churches pays great dividends; and helping new missions or churches destroyed by fire or natural disaster is a witness for the concern of our churches. Just ask the congregation meeting in a mobile chapel.

Then there are all the special

ministries such as disaster relief — concerned Baptists drive up in a semi, a van loaded with food and men and women serve thousands of meals to shocked and hungry people. Think of all the work with the Choctaw Indians, national Baptists, pastoral aid, apartment house ministries — all streaming from Christians who love, give, and go.

"Lead on Mississippi" is the theme and September is the time. The Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions has a goal of \$687,350. The mission field, our Jerusalem and Judea, is all around us. We can make a difference in our state. Unless we do a creditable job in our state, we will have little or nothing going out to the uttermost part of the world.

"Winning Mississippi and the world to Jesus" presents the real picture. The less we do in winning our state to Jesus means we will be doing less in winning the world. Pray for the people who make these ministries possible and ask the Lord about your part in this offering and effort.

Guest Opinion...

The danger of becoming hybrid Baptists

By Troy L. Morrison

Agriculturalists have been able to manipulate certain plants in a manner that produces hybrids. In humans this is referred to as genetic engineering.

In the plant world, some of these hybrids cannot reproduce. For example, there is a seedless watermelon. It tastes delicious, but it cannot reproduce.

Southern Baptist may be in danger of becoming hybrid. The "Baptist genes" may become so distorted until we fail to reproduce other Christians and other Baptists. The end result could be like a seedless watermelon. We can have a great denomination for one generation and then lose it all! What are some of the things that might produce "Hybrid Baptists?"

1. The failure to reproduce witnessing Christians.

Evangelism has been a trademark of Baptists for centuries. We experienced our greatest growth when "confrontational" evangelism was being practiced by ministers and laypersons.

The weekly night of evangelistic visiting and witnessing has been discontinued in many churches. Some may practice what they call "relational" or "situational" evangelism.

Any form of witnessing is bet-

ter than none. However, could it be that witnessing is becoming a "lost art?" I hope not! If it is, we may quickly become nonproducing "Hybrid Baptists."

2. The failure to support missions.

Christ died for the whole world! Will Southern Baptists sabotage their worldwide mission program because of some political agenda or power struggle? I hope not! But sometimes I feel we are becoming dangerously close to losing our most prized and precious enterprise. If we fail to support our missionaries, we could become hybrid.

3. A trivial approach to doctrine.

Some Baptists have difficulty in knowing and expressing what they believe about the church, the Trinity, salvation, the second coming, and many other doctrines of the Bible. Because they are unsure of what they believe, they could "fall" for anything. The end result may be "Hybrid Baptists."

4. Literature published by other denominations.

Some of these publications have subtle teachings that are contrary to the teachings of Southern Baptists. People who feed their minds and hearts on this information may become hybrid, possibly

leading their children and the next generation away from Baptist beliefs. They produce something that is spiritually hybrid.

5. A concealment of identity.

There are indications in some segments of our denomination that it seems people are reluctant to reveal who they are as Baptists. Those who associate together may be called simply a "community of believers." That may be idealistic, but it certainly is not practical.

All kinds and "stripes" of people may become a part of the fellowship. The end result usually is "war in the camp." After one generation, the ultimate end is a seedless fellowship that may die. Like a seedless watermelon, it is good for one planting.

Baptists need to unashamedly identify ourselves. We do not need to become hybrid.

6. Changing of church polity or church government.

Since our earliest beginnings, the Baptist form of government has been congregational rather than ecclesiastical. The ministers, officers, and leaders of our churches are very important. They guide us in truth about spiritual matters. The minister should preach with authority.

However, the congregational form of church government is

Lead ON,
Mississippi...

"To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out."

When he puts forth all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice."

John 10:3-4 (NAS)

*The Margaret Lackey Offering for
STATE MISSIONS
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State Goal \$687,350*

THE FRAGMENTS

Brewing trouble

Recently there was a sad but enlightening song on the radio bemoaning the fact that the singer lad was now nothing but "Beer and Bones."

Mississippi State fraternity boys tested the Starkville and West Point lawmen early this school year, when 15 were arrested in a brawl, most for public drunkenness. The "finished product of the brewer's art" had come home.

Memorial Stadium in Jackson has suffered from low attendance and budgetary shortages for several years. Now the Stadium Commission comes up with a real "beer and bones" plan. For the first time ever, beer will be sold during football games to the "This Bud's for you" crowd.

"Brown-bagging it" has been going on for years, which spoiled and soiled the atmosphere for many Christian families. Now plans are crafted to lose more fans. "Head for the mountains" could be the game plan for future Saturdays.

It's tragic how we can create so much hurt while trying to solve our problems. The gambling craze has many state officials gasping as the tax dollars roll in.

Meanwhile, down the road one can see the social problems forming. Eventually, whoever controls the gambling will control the state. We've invited the wolf into the hen house and he has never concerned himself with the welfare of its inhabitants. — GH

both biblical and democratic. Members of a church who are not involved eventually will abdicate and leave. Thus, the church can become hybrid and nonreproducing.

I certainly believe in the autonomy of the local church and its freedom to make its own choices in all matters. However,

in making some choices, it could become hybrid.

Hybrid watermelons may be delicious, but "Hybrid Baptists" may be tasteless and fruitless.

Morrison is executive secretary-treasurer, Alabama Convention. This article was reprinted from the ALABAMA BAPTIST.

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Ed Young facing tax bill in property record mixup

HOUSTON (BP) — H. Edwin Young, pastor of Houston's Second Church and current president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will be paying an estimated \$60,000 in previously unassessed taxes in an apparent mixup with property appraisal officials, the Houston Chronicle reported Sept. 1.

Young's Houston home, now valued at \$600,000, has been mistakenly listed as tax-exempt church property for some 10 years.

The Chronicle stated there has been no suggestion that taxes were avoided intentionally — a point underscored by Lynn Carter, chairman of Second Baptists' deacons and a Houston attorney.

A Houston tax consultant rep-

resenting church officials met with property appraisal officials in May, Carter told Baptist Press, to "give them all the facts... and assist them in clearing all this up." Young and the church are awaiting word from the local officials of how much back taxes are owed, which Young will pay, Carter said.

There is no tax delinquency, as no tax bills were sent to Young, and there will be no penalties, Carter said.

Carter said the mixup stemmed from a transition-type agreement between the church and Young when he became pastor in 1978 to give Young ownership of a new parsonage in 15 yearly installments.

Associated Press wire service changes story on Russian law action

MOSCOW (BP) — One of the world's farthest-reaching news services, which reported Aug. 27 that Russian President Boris Yeltsin had defeated Parliament in a face-off on religious restrictions, reversed its story Sept. 1.

The Associated Press told Baptist Press its Moscow bureau has determined the controversial new Russian law on religion "still contains" the restrictions. The original AP story, which went to thousands of news outlets worldwide, had declared Parliament removed the restrictions in response to an outcry from world religious and political leaders.

However, the wire service buried its latest interpretation of the law eight paragraphs into a story about Pope John Paul II's visit to the Baltic region, released for use by morning newspapers Sept. 2.

Human rights experts seemed to agree the Associated Press fell victim to the same disinformation campaign that has characterized passage of the law twice in Parliament.

The law places restrictions on foreign missionary activity and

evangelism by Russians not associated with the Russian Orthodox Church. It reverses the freedom of religion act Parliament passed in 1990, which opened the way for preaching all kinds of doctrine on Russian soil. Yeltsin's legal advisers in the Kremlin reportedly could not immediately determine whether he would be able to veto the revised law.

Since April, evangelicals have accused communist- and Orthodox-controlled media outlets in Russia of putting a misleading spin on news stories about the law. One widely spread falsehood: that Russian Baptist leader Vasily Logvenenko supported the law, when in fact he campaigned against it.

Russian lawmakers talked as if they were supporting Yeltsin in his cries for democracy and religious freedom while they passed the restrictive amendments "with shameful enthusiasm," charged Parliament member Gleb Yakunin.

Yakunin is an Orthodox priest who has fought efforts in Parliament to bolster the Orthodox position and restrict other religions.

Book Stores, Olan Mills announce partnership

NASHVILLE (BP) — Baptist Book Stores and Olan Mills, Inc., have announced a partnership for providing church directories, effective immediately, according to Charles A. Wilson, vice president for trade and retail markets at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Mark King, director of the retail division's direct marketing department, said he believes the merger of Baptist Book Store

Directory Service with Olan Mills should bolster Southern Baptists' confidence in the service.

King said Olan Mills currently provides directory service to more than 1.3 million families in more than 10,000 churches each year. "The proven leadership of Olan Mills in the pictorial directory industry guarantees Baptists not only a superior product, but also quality customer service," he said.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Rankin nominates Willis to new FMB overseas v.p. post

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Avery T. Willis Jr., a national leader in Discipleship Training



Willis

and former missionary, was announced Sept. 1 as the president's nominee for a new senior overseas vice presidential role at the Foreign Mission Board. FMB President Jerry Rankin, who announced his recommendation at a staff chapel service and in a memo to trustees, said Willis would join the board staff Dec. 1 if elected by trustees at their Oct. 11-13 meeting in Richmond. Rankin once served with Willis as a missionary in Indonesia.

Willis, 59, director of the Discipleship and Family Adult Department at the Baptist Sunday School Board, played a major role in developing the MasterLife

Discipleship Training program used worldwide by Southern Baptists and others.

In his memo to trustees, Rankin suggested they talk to search committee members who interviewed and researched Willis. Willis is "well grounded in mission methods and strategy" but would bring "the freshness and creativity of an 'outsider,'" he said.

The joint committee also approved Rankin's recommendation that Executive Vice President Don Kammerdiener retain his position directly under the president and his role of relating to the entire organization. The former Latin America missionary and administrator was the board's interim president for nearly seven months.

Rankin, Kammerdiener, and the senior vice president will work as an administrative team, with specific roles to be defined later. But the senior vice president will administer overseas opera-

tions rather than the five current regional vice presidents, who will assume other duties over an extended transition.

The function of the mission board's top-level Global Strategy Group will be filled by 10 area directors convening twice yearly. The changes will return most field administration and strategic development responsibilities to these area directors on the mission field. They will relate to the board through the new senior vice president for overseas.

Leon Hyatt of Louisiana, first vice chairman of the FMB trustees and a member of the joint trustee-staff committee, pointed out that "three of the names that received highest consideration by the presidential search committee were Jerry Rankin, Don Kammerdiener, and Avery Willis. Nothing but the providence of God would make it possible that all three would be in top leadership positions at the Foreign Mission Board."

Florida woman sues Executive Committee member for records

By Debbie Salamone

SANFORD, Fla. (ABP) — A founding member of a Baptist church near Orlando is suing the church in an attempt to learn if the pastor — a national Southern Baptist leader — has misused church money.

Ann Haynes is suing William Parker and First Church of Markham Woods in Seminole County Circuit Court. She is demanding to see records that may show whether Parker has wrongly usurped control of the 13-year-old church, altered church documents, taken interest-free loans from church money, and improperly included his home within the church's property tax exemption.

Parker, a member of the Southern Baptist Convention's powerful Executive Committee, denied all of the allegations Aug. 30. He said Haynes is no longer a church member. "She has no business with the church," Parker said. "The church is fine."

According to the lawsuit, Haynes was kicked out of the church Aug. 19, two days after she requested in writing to see the records.

In her suit, Haynes asks that she be reinstated as a church member

and that Parker and the church be prohibited from expelling members without just cause. The lawsuit says other members who have disagreed with Parker or questioned his authority also have been stripped of membership.

Parker is one of four Florida representatives on the 80-member

Executive Committee, which performs the work of the Southern Baptist Convention between annual sessions. He also is a trustee of the Florida Baptist Witness, the state Baptist newspaper.

(This story is used with permission of the ORLANDO SENTINEL.)

SBC Cooperative Program gifts up for August, trail '92

NASHVILLE (BP) — Cooperative Program receipts for August were up slightly — one half of 1% — over the same period last year but receipts for the year-to-date remained below the previous year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

Total gifts for August 1993, designated and Cooperative Program, were up for the month by 1.45%, \$13,934,187 compared to \$13,734,707 last year. However, the August CP figure of \$11,266,269 (compared to August 1992 of \$11,210,624)

was 3.7% below the monthly SBC budget requirement of \$11,683,366.

With August the 11th month of the SBC fiscal year, which is October through September, the CP totals are \$126,101,303 compared with the 11-month budget requirement of \$128,517,028. The SBC budget for 1992-1993 is \$140,200,395.

Designated gifts for August were up 5.7%, \$2,667,917 compared to \$2,524,083 in 1992. The total for both CP and designated gifts for the year to date is 1.05% behind a year ago: \$251,412,331 compared to \$254,086,515.

Baptist Youth World Conference opens with mass choir salute

HARARE, Zimbabwe (Compiled from wire reports) — As the rhythms of Africa thundered throughout the Harare International Conference Centre on Aug. 11, the combined voices of the 250-member Baptist International Mass Choir opened the 12th Baptist Youth World Conference by proclaiming, "Bayete Inkosi! We salute you, Lord!"

The drums continued throughout the roll call of nations, which concluded with a standing ovation for the host country of Zimbabwe.

"Peoples of the world," the voices rang, "risk your all for him. Christ is the hope. Christ is the hope for the world."

It was an emotional moment, as youths from around the world arrived for the four-day meeting of Baptists affiliated with the 38-million-member Baptist World Alliance.

It was a time of celebration, and a time of seriousness as over 4,000 registrants and observers were challenged with the theme "Risking All For Christ... Our Only Hope" by Romanian pastor Paul Negrut.

Addressing the conference on behalf of Zimbabwe Vice-President Joshua Nkomo was John Nkomo, minister of the public service, labor, and social welfare. "We are one world, one people," the official said. "We are to share experiences; share in the gift of life; share in worshipping him; and share in the oneness of life."

Additional opening remarks were given by BWA President Knud Wumpelmann and BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz. BWA Youth Department President Chamunowra Chiromo and BWA Youth Director Paul Montacute officially declared the conference in session.

With humor, but mostly in a "no-frills" rapid-fire, high-energy presentation, Tony Campolo and Steve Chalke challenged young Baptists to live out a practical Christianity that addresses the social problems of the world.

"Last night, while you were sleeping, 40,000 kids died, and most of you don't give a damn," Campolo said. "The problem is that most of you are more upset about me saying 'damn' than you are about the 40,000," he said.

Chalke, a well known Christian speaker in Europe, is the national director of the Oasis Trust in London. The trust is involved in a wide range of social care, evangelism, and Christian training projects throughout the world.

Campolo is an internationally known Christian author, speaker, and leader in social and humanitarian issues. He is chairman of the sociology department at Eastern College in Philadelphia.

Campolo described a personal experience of his failure to show compassion. During a visit to Haiti, a poor, under-privileged woman with a sick baby in her arms came to Campolo, just as he was about to leave the Haitian

Dominican Republic border.

"Take my baby! My baby is going to die!" she said to Campolo. "Take my baby. Please take my baby."

Campolo moved to get away from the woman, and she followed him. He then began to run, and the woman ran after him. He hopped into his small, chartered plane, slamming the door, yelling to the pilot, "Let's get out of here. Quickly, let's get out of here."

As the plane taxied down the runway, the woman with her baby ran beside it pounding on the side and screaming, "Take my baby. Please, take my baby. Don't let my baby die."

"Later it dawned on me what the name of the baby was," Campolo said. "Though I really didn't know the name of the baby, I knew the name of the baby was Jesus."

"The Bible says when I failed to do it to that baby, I failed to do it to Jesus," he said.

Chalke added, "In the light of Matthew 25, Tony's assessment of the name of that baby was right."

The two explained they hadn't "sold out" to a social gospel. They said, however, when Christians get to heaven, they won't be asked about theology, doctrine, or a salvation experience.

Prior to Negrut's address, conference participants sang praises to their Lord in English and a combi-

nation of African languages — Zulu, Ndebele and Shona.

"Jabulani, Africa, take joy," they sang as hundreds took to the conference floor to worship in traditional African style. "Let us worship Jesus, King of the nations... Come nations, let us sing God's praise."

Nations of the world suffering from war and disaster were mentioned in a special time of prayer. Names of countries were shouted out from the floor as prayer concerns. Among the countries mentioned were Cuba, Angola, and Guatemala.

The prayer was followed by two musical "firsts" in the youth conference: the gospel music of African-Americans and the chanting of a Masai tribe.

The U.S. Gospel choir, young people from the National Baptist Convention Inc. and the Progressive National Baptist Convention, delighted the crowd with their music.

Dressed in distinctive red Masai tribal dress, the women wearing beaded necklaces and the men carrying colored giraffe tails, the choir chanted their praise to God.

The 12th Baptist Youth World Conference was the first for the continent of Africa, and was sponsored by the youth department of the BWA, and hosted by the Baptist heads of denominations of Zimbabwe.

AFRICAN ACCENT — The sounds and rhythms of Africa added vigor to the 12th Baptist Youth World Conference, Aug. 11-15 in Harare, Zimbabwe — the first held on the African continent. Theme for the conference was "Risking All for Christ... Our Only Hope." More than 4,000 youths attended the conference, sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance, which held its general council meeting also in Harare prior to the youth event. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

"U-John" sues 36 religious bodies for 10 trillion dollars

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptists might have to start passing the offering plate twice each Sunday following the filing of a \$10 trillion lawsuit alleging fraud and breach of duty against 36 Christian, Jewish, and other religious bodies.

"This is an off-the-wall lawsuit," said James Guenther, legal counsel for the convention since 1966. "We have a lot of lawsuits that have no merit, but we've never had one that made as little sense as this one."

The civil action, filed in April at the U.S. District Court in Atlanta, alleges eight infractions, including fraud, blasphemy, "global disruption of peace" and "defamation of the divine

character."

"I don't think anybody in the Southern Baptist Convention is taking it seriously," Guenther said. "It's just regrettable that in our system the convention has to go the expense of responding to it."

According to the lawsuit, the plaintiff "U-John, king-priest of the Universal Sovereign," contends to represent all who profess a Bible-based religious affiliation.

Ironically, U-John claims to represent the members of the very bodies being sued, Guenther pointed out. "It's a pretty goofy concept."

The lawsuit lists a Decatur address for the "Royal Embassy of U-John," but attempts to contact U-John were unsuccessful.

Churches adopt Expanded Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the Aug. 5 issue of **The Baptist Record**: Calhoun: New Providence; Choctaw: Victory; Montgomery: Pine Forest; Union County: Beulah and Zion Hill; Webster: Mt. Vernon; and Yalobusha: Tillatoba.

CP dollars go to work in Baptist Student Union efforts, spheres

Parents and pastors should encourage college students to head for the Baptist Student Union this fall. There, they will meet life-long friends and find a dynamic Christian group on campus.

The unofficial enrollment (1992-93) on the 34 campuses where we have BSU work was 107,855 of which 53,055 were Baptist or Baptist preference. BSU activities reached 24,550 students, a 24% increase over the previous year. Students preparing for church-related vocations totaled 502 and there were 312 students who were converted to the Christian faith. The BSU students assisted 749 churches in the Magnolia State with various programs and ministries.

It's not all talk at the BSU. There were 65 students from 16 colleges involved as student missionaries in foreign countries and in home missionary efforts. BSUs raised nearly \$90,000 to help pay the expenses. The outreach continued: 79 served on the

staff of local churches, 33 were counselors for RA and GA groups. Gulfshore Assembly profited by having 35 on their staff and 13 more served at Ridgecrest.

The tireless group did not stop there. Evangelism outreach projects claimed 58 students and 504

were on revival teams, while 521 others were involved in community missions. There were 2,079 language Bibles given out to international students.

The BSU also stacks up well compared with other Christian organizations on campus. Campus Crusade has 1,600 staff members and reached 15,000 students in 1992. The BSU, with 942 staffers, nationally reached 191,919 students.

Jerry Merriman and Weaver McCracken of the Department of Student Work, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, are presently working with 21 full-time directors and four associate directors. The BSU is supported by the Cooperative Program and nearby local churches. — GH



HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

Sept. 9, 1993

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

PRAYERGRAM

by Wilda Fancher, Prayer Coordinator, MBCB

PRAY for Bulgaria (eastern Europe), where 14 churches have been organized in 18 months, bringing the total number of Baptist churches in Bulgaria to 30. At present there are 10 pastors and not one has had any sort of leadership training.

PRAY for Mary Jo Stewart who is doing WMU work in Kenya. She is having a fruitful ministry in every way. Pray for her continued good health and enthusiasm. Thank God that in 1992 there were 42,785 Masaai tribespeople who accepted Christ as Savior.

PRAY for the ministry of Jimmy and Ruby Lim at the New Bilibid National Penitentiary just outside of Manila, Philippines (southeast Asia). Baptists have two churches in the prison complex. Jimmy is the only registered evangelical chaplain in the prison system in the Philippines.

PRAY for the "Fresh Encounter National Event" to be held at the Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center Sept. 13-15, 1993. This is jointly sponsored by the Home Mission Board and the Sunday School Board. Pray that such meetings will prepare the way for sweeping revival within the Southern Baptist Convention.

PRAY for Larry Ross, director of missions of the Potomac Highland Baptist Association, Petersburg, West Virginia. As many as five new churches could begin this summer and fall. Pray for several Mission Service Corps volunteers to serve as full-time or bivocational pastors for these new works. The responsibilities are overwhelming for the Ross family.

PRAY for those who made decisions this summer at Garaywa and Central Hills. Pray that these young people will continue to grow and their churches will encourage them.

PRAY the Mississippi Baptist Student Conference to be held in First Baptist Church, Jackson, Sept. 24-25, 1993.

PRAY that people in our state will respond to the plea for help from Alaska. Rabbit Creek Baptist Church in Anchorage needs help for inside finish work for Sept. and Oct. They can use teams of any size. ☐

For MasterLife alumni...

Winston Association headquarters is site for MasterBuilder course

The Winston County Associational Office in Louisville will be the site for a MasterBuilder Workshop, Sept. 16-18. Sessions will be help from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday evenings, and from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

MasterLife cont.

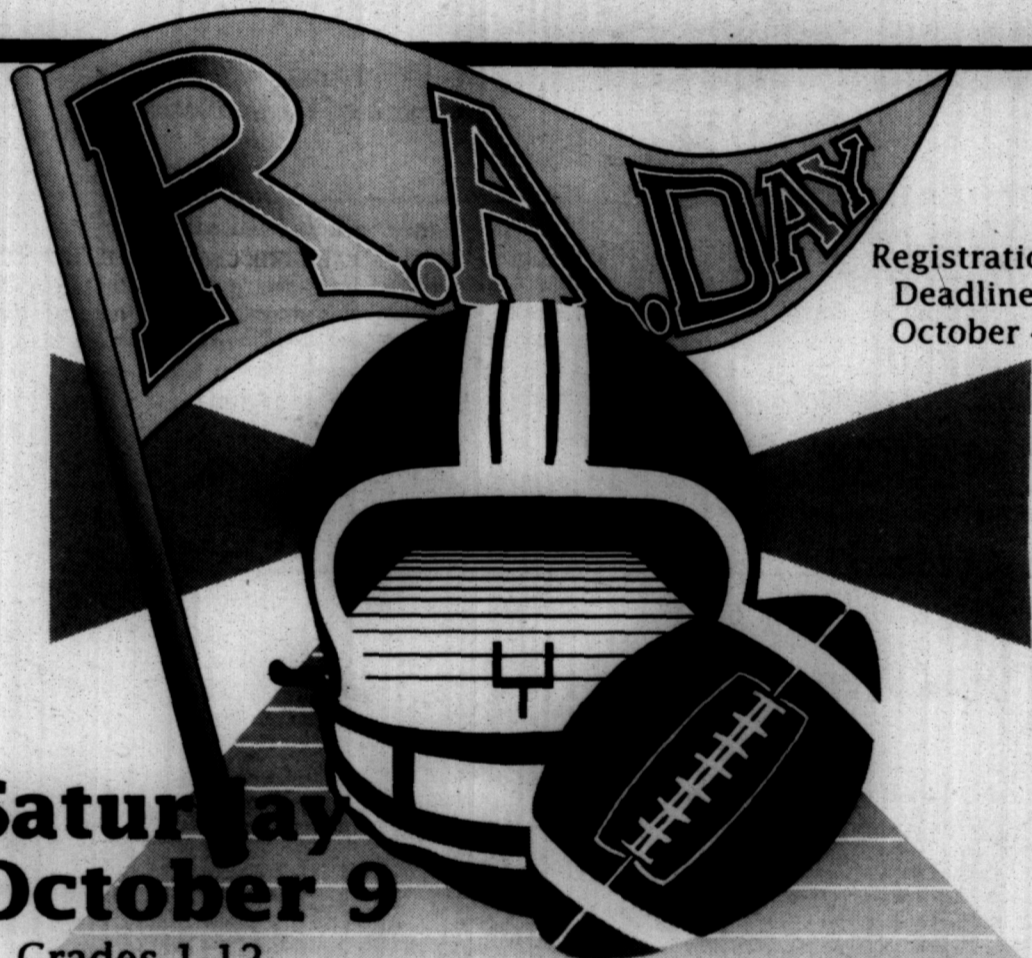
Participants will be certified to lead MasterBuilder groups upon completion of the 14-hour workshop.

MasterBuilder is a 13-unit course of study designed to enable MasterLife alumni to develop qualities of Christian leadership.

"MasterBuilder will be helpful in equipping leaders, training MasterLife group leaders, and training church staff to lead effectively," said Mose Dangerfield, director the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department which sponsors the training.

MasterBuilder units deal with knowing God's will through Bible study, being who God can use through evaluation and application, building character, doing in order to master skills, and developing through feedback.

Interested persons should pre-register with the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department in Jackson or with the Winston Associational office, Paul Blanchard, P.O. Box 375, Louisville, MS 39339. The registration fee is \$75. Participants provide their own room and board for the three days. ☐



Registration Deadline: October 4

**Saturday
October 9**

Grades 1-12
1-8 p.m.
\$7.50 per Person
M.C. vs. North Alabama

Sponsored by
The Brotherhood Department
Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board

R. A. DAY REGISTRATION

(one form per church please)

CHURCH _____

CHURCH ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____

PERSON SENDING IN FORM _____

PHONE (day) _____

NO. PEOPLE _____

x \$7.50 per person = \$ _____

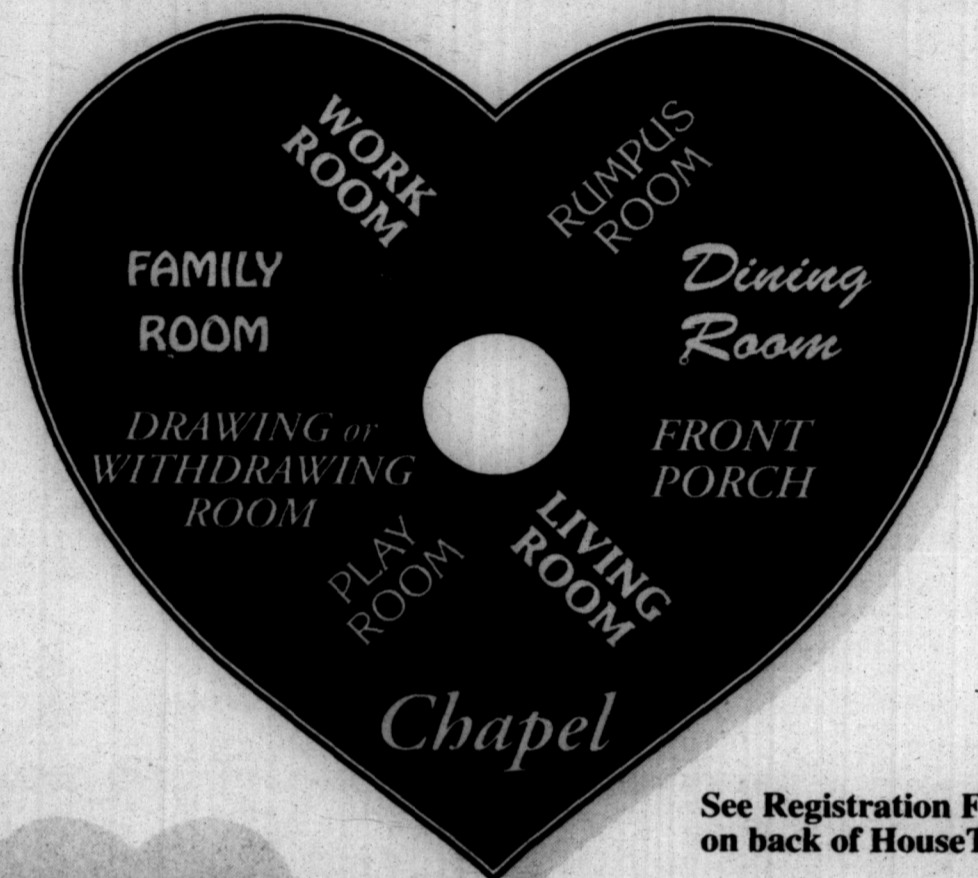
Amount Enclosed

(payable to "Mississippi Baptist Convention Board")

MAIL TO: R. A. Day • Brotherhood Department • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Church Renewal Retreat

Redecorate Your Life – Your Heart, Christ's Home



See Registration Form
on back of HouseTops

Central Hills Baptist Retreat

Kosciusko, Mississippi
September 17-18, 1993

Sponsored by
BROTHERHOOD DEPARTMENT

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD

"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"

The Church Renewal Retreat will be a time to get away from the hustle and bustle of the routine daily life, to spend time apart with yourself, others, and God. To equip and awaken Christians to live their faith in their church and in the marketplace.

Attention: Deacons, Personnel Committee,
and Church Officials

PASTOR AND STAFF APPRECIATION DAY

Many churches choose the Fall months to give recognition to their pastor and staff. It is a way of following the admonition of the Bible, where Paul wrote, "We beg you brothers, pay proper respect to those who work among you, those whom God has chosen to guide and instruct you. Treat them with the greatest respect and love, because of the work they do" (1 Thessalonians 4:12-13). To show recognition speaks volumes to the community, as well as to the church, of the great work being accomplished by the men and women of God.

Whose responsibility is it to organize this special event, and what can we do? Here are a few suggestions.

1. The deacons, personnel committee, or an appropriate group should place this day on the church calendar.
2. It should be planned for the morning worship service.
3. Enlist church leaders to express appreciation, such as the deacons, W.M.U., and the Personnel Committee. Community, city, and state officials could be invited to speak.
4. Present the pastor (and staff) an appropriate recognition for devoted service. They may be recognized annually, or for periods of ministry — five years, ten years, fifteen years, etc.
5. Your local newspaper and the Baptist Record should be requested to print the story of your efforts.

This act of appreciation will be a tremendous encouragement to your pastor and staff. They will be challenged to devote new energy to the Lord's work through your church. It could also mean that there would be fewer problems, more love expressed, and a stronger fellowship will develop. I encourage you to try it.

Louis Smith, Director - Church-Minister Relations and Annuity
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board ☐

Mississippi Singing Churchmen FALL TOUR

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4

First Baptist Church, Cleveland

Rehearsal - 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Concert - 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

First Baptist Church, Calhoun City
Concert - 12:00 Noon.

Tuesday Evening Concert

First Baptist Church, Greenwood
7:00 p.m. - Concert

1994 Area Keyboard Festivals

AREA	LOCATION	FESTIVAL LEADER	PHONE
Thursday, January 27, 1994, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.			
Area 2	Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo	Rev. Darwin Brooks	C 842-6917
Area 2	Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo	Mrs. Diane Smith	C 842-6917
Area 4	Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus	Mr. Slater Murphy	C 328-2924
Area 5	Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson	Rev. Bob Jones	C 372-8651
Area 7	First Baptist Church, McComb	Dr. Mark Moore	C 684-2971
Area 7	First Baptist Church, McComb	Mrs. Carol Watts	C 684-2971
Area 8	First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	Mrs. Kathy Vail	C 264-7443
Area 8	First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	Mr. Rick Carter	C 544-0100
Area 8	First Baptist Church, Laurel	Mrs. Earline Carter	C 649-5711
Area 8	First Baptist Church, Laurel	Mr. Richard Green	C 649-5711
Friday, January 28, 1994, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.			
Area 9	First Baptist Church, Gulfport	Mrs. Tammy Turnage	H 864-8707
Saturday, January 29, 1994, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.			
Area 1	Colonial Hills Baptist Church, Southaven	Mrs. Elizabeth Cothran	H 781-2582
Area 3	First Baptist Church, Greenville	Mr. John Burke	C 334-9452
Area 3	First Baptist Church, Greenville	Mrs. Alice Kathryn Turner	H 332-8959
Area 5	Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton	Mrs. Carol Durham	H 924-0469
Area 5	Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton	Mr. Gary Miller	C 924-5620
Area 5	First Baptist Church, Vicksburg	Mr. Jim Hess	C 636-2493
Area 6	Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church, Meridian	Mr. Harry Tillery	C 425-5106

HOUSETOPS

BREAK THROUGH

Serve to Win

In today's hectic world, Sunday School has to BREAK-THROUGH the "worldly clutter" to touch hearts and change lives. Make a positive impact throughout the year by launching your new Sunday School early to:

- Enlist and train new Sunday School workers
- Start new classes, departments, and Sunday School emphases
- Provide the necessary space, equipment, and materials
- Conduct effective workers meetings
- Increase Sunday School enrollment and attendance
- Improve your Workers' teaching skills
- Enhance outreach, visitation, and personal ministry

Develop a commitment in your Sunday School to reach people through dedicated Bible teaching.

Suggested Sunday School Preparation Week 1993 is September 26-October 1. Now is the time to begin preparing for a successful Sunday School Ministry. ☐



SMALL CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE Blue Mountain College

Blue Mountain, Mississippi
9:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon

September 18, 1993
Sunday School Department

The new teaching series will be taught:

Ideas for Reaching Preschoolers and Their Families
Kathy Goss, Special Worker
Sunday School Department

Ideas for Reaching Children and Their Families
Pam Black, Corinth

Ideas for Reaching Youth
Gary Black, Corinth

Ideas for Reaching Adults
Emmett Wade, Hernando

Sunday School Outreach-Evangelism Handbook
(General Officers)
Joe Haynes, Retired, BSSB, Nashville

**These leaders are designing their
conferences for You!**

Wilda Fancher has been named as the Mississippi Baptist Prayer Ministry Coordinator, succeeding Charles and Indy Whitten, who retired from the voluntary post.

Fancher, a former president of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, is married to James Fancher, who serves part time on the convention board staff as evangelism consultant.

She is a graduate of Mississippi College and earned the master of religious education degree from New Orleans Seminary and the master of arts degree from Mississippi University for Women.

In promoting prayer ministry, Mrs. Fancher enlists associational coordinators, holds prayer conferences,

Wilda Fancher is new Prayer Coordinator



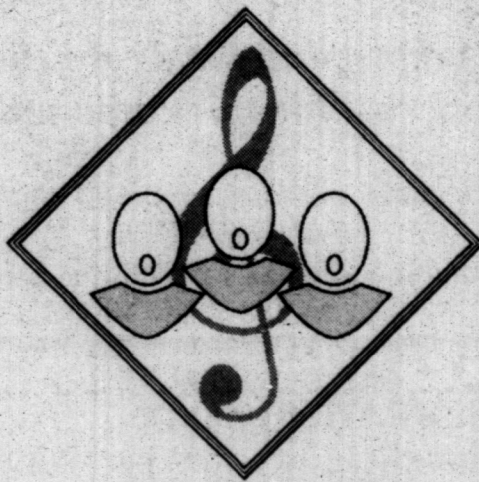
and encourages churches to develop their own prayer ministries. She also coordinates a statewide net-

work of prayer support for Baptists and the Lord's work. At this time, a total of 47 associations have prayer coordinators in place.

Mrs. Fancher notes that the Uniform Church Letter, in which Baptist churches report their statistics, has a new entry for this year—a place to give the name of the prayer ministry coordinator. "Please communicate to your pastors and church clerks the importance of giving us this person's name," she said.

She said that should a church prayer ministry coordinator not be in place, for a contact person from each church to be named for participation in the Mississippi prayer network. ☐

1993 Adult Choir Festivals



October 7, 1993

38th Avenue, Hattiesburg
First Baptist, Senatobia
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

October 10, 1993

First Baptist, Kosciusko
North Greenwood, Greenwood
3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

ADULT CHOIR FESTIVAL REGISTRATION FORM

CHURCH _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CHOIR NAME _____

DIRECTOR _____

PHONE NO. _____ NUMBER ATTENDING _____

CHOIR ADJUDICATION SELECTIONS:

1. TITLE: _____

COMPOSER _____

PUBLISHER _____

OCTAVO NO. _____

2. TITLE: _____

COMPOSER _____

PUBLISHER _____

OCTAVO NO. _____

Total number registered at \$1.00 per person = \$ _____ Enclosed

Make checks payable to:

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Send completed form and check to:

Church Music Department
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Registration deadline is September 24, 1993. The registration fee is non-refundable.

1993 Youth Ministers conference

**October 18-20
Lake Tiak O'Khata
Louisville, Miss.**

- youth ministry basics
- youth ministry overview

Schedule

MONDAY-Registration at 1:30 p.m., beginning session at 2:00 p.m., adjourn for the evening at 9:45 p.m.

TUESDAY-Breakfast at 7:00 a.m., beginning session at 8:15 a.m., afternoon free or appointments with program leaders and Convention Board leaders, adjourn for the evening at 9:00

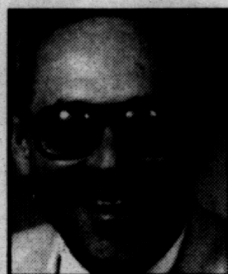
WEDNESDAY-Breakfast at 7:00 a.m. beginning session 8:15 a.m., adjourn conference at 10:00 a.m.



Lajuanna Ross



Greg Warnack



Phil Briggs



Michael Passons



Scott Allen



Richard Ross

Lodging and Meals are the only cost for this conference

for further information contact Julius Thompson with the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Dept. at 968-3800

Church Renewal Retreat REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Enclosed is \$_____ for _____ reservations at **\$6.00 each.** (make check payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board)

I ☐ We ☐, will be interested in attending the following training conferences on Saturday morning: (Check your interest)

- ☐ What is Church Renewal? (Overview)
- ☐ Adult Team Member
- ☐ Children Coordinator/Worker
- ☐ Consultants/Coordinators
- ☐ Youth Coordinator/Team Member
- ☐ Pastor's Preparation for Renewal

Mail this form to:

CHURCH RENEWAL RETREAT
Brotherhood Department
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39025-0530

Room reservations are made with Lake Tiak O'Khata at (773-7853)

- ☐ I will not need a room but plan to eat the following meals:
- ☐ Monday Dinner - \$7.50
- ☐ Tuesday Breakfast - \$4.90
- ☐ Tuesday Lunch - \$6.65
- ☐ Tuesday Dinner - \$7.50
- ☐ Wednesday Breakfast - \$4.90

REGISTRATION FORM

Youth Ministers Conference, October 18-20
Return to: Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries
Dept. P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Name _____

Position _____

Spouse name (if attending) _____

Office Address _____

Office Phone No. _____ Home Phone No. _____

Church Name _____

Association _____

☐ I have made reservations at Lake Tiak O'Khata

It's Not Too Late!

for you to go to the

**Baptist Nursing Fellowship
Retreat**

at Camp Garaywa, Clinton
September 10-11, 1993

Call your WMU office for registration details!
968-3800

HOUSE OF

Association expels North Carolina church over female deacon

By Mark Bixler

WEST JEFFERSON, N.C. (ABP) — A local Baptist association in North Carolina voted Aug. 21 to expel a church because it ordained a woman as deacon.

Conservative members of the Ashe Association, made up of about 50 churches in the mountains of western North Carolina, decided First Church of West Jefferson, N.C., violated biblical teachings by ordaining Theresa Early Curd as a deacon.

Lloyd Day, pastor of two small churches near the Virginia border, said that women should not take leadership roles in the home or the church. "I think it's all right for a woman to pray and sing and testify, as long as it's not taking the leadership over the man," he said.

Day, who made the motion to kick the church out at the association's annual meeting, cited a Bible verse from 1 Timothy that says deacons "should be the husband of one wife" and should rule their children and their house well.

He charged that the West Jefferson church, a moderate congregation with more than 250 members, erred when it ordained Curd. "I just stand for what the Bible teaches," Day said. "It's not a personal matter."

Curd, a mathematics professor

at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C., who has attended the West Jefferson church for about 13 years, said she was shocked to hear of the decision.

"We're sorry that the association could not respect our beliefs on this issue," she said. "They felt like we were sinning."

Curd said that members of her church have been supportive of her since the association excluded First Church. She plans to continue serving as a deacon, she said.

Though local Baptist associations have the power to expel member churches, they usually respect the autonomy of an individual church and rarely kick one out, said Roy Smith, the executive director of the State Convention of North Carolina.

"I don't know of any church in North Carolina that has been excluded because they had women deacons," he said.

Smith said Baptist churches across North Carolina have ordained women as deacons. Women serve as ministers of youth, music, and education in numerous churches, and a handful of Baptist churches in the state have female pastors.

(This story used with permission from the Winston-Salem, N.C., JOURNAL.)

On May 17, 1991, a brilliant bolt of lightning struck the 90-member Valley Baptist Church in Middletown, Pennsylvania, causing a fire that destroyed the building.

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—Robert M. Colvin Jr., Pastor

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In a single flash, 90 people lost their house.

Thursday, September 9, 1993

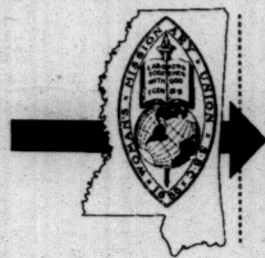
BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Margaret Lackey

Offering for State Missions

Goal : \$687,350

Current : \$ 71,545



SBC leaders feel "snubbed" by White House breakfast

WASHINGTON (ABP) — "Average, mainstream evangelicals" should feel snubbed because no Southern Baptist officials were invited to a prayer breakfast at the White House Aug. 30, said one Southern Baptist leader.

However, Southern Baptists were among 80 religious leaders from a variety of faiths who participated in the breakfast, during which Clinton encouraged people of faith to make their presence known in the public arena.

Southern Baptists present were Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, Ark.; Cecil Sherman, coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship; and James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee, a Washington-based religious-liberty lobby.

Leaders of the SBC, many of whom have been openly critical of Clinton and his policies, were not invited. Also missing were other leaders of the religious right, which largely backed George Bush in last year's presidential election.

"Perhaps Bill Clinton will think better of snubbing evangelicals at election time," warned James Smith, Washington-based director of governmental relations for the Christian Life Commission, the SBC's moral-concerns agency.

Some religious and political leaders predicted the CLC would be shut out of White House sessions under Clinton after Land and some other SBC leaders were critical of Clinton during the presidential election last year.

And last June messengers to the annual Southern Baptist Convention approved a resolution distancing

the convention from Clinton over abortion, homosexuality, and other issues. Some messengers also tried unsuccessfully to get Clinton's home church — Immanuel Baptist in Little Rock, Ark. — expelled from the SBC for tolerating Clinton's membership.

The CLC's Smith described the group as "a roll call of the religious left with a few token evangelicals."

This story includes information from the Nashville Tennessean and Washington Times.

Paul David Aultman dies

Paul David Aultman, 63, pastor of First Church, Ocean Springs, died of a heart attack Sept. 3 at his



Aultman

mother's home in Sumrall. Services were held Sept. 7 at First Church with burial in Presley-Watts Cemetery in Sumrall. Before moving to Ocean Springs, Aultman was pastor of Improve Church, Columbia. He delivered his first pastoral sermon at First Church, Ocean Springs, March 7, 1965.

He was a graduate of Clarke College, University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi College,

and New Orleans Seminary. He also received two doctoral degrees from Luther Rice Seminary: doctor of ministries and doctor of theology.

Aultman made mission trips to Montana, North Dakota, Guyana, and Honduras. He was district Royal Ambassadors director for the Brotherhood Department, MBCB, and was moderator for Jackson Association.

Survivors include: his wife Kathleen; sons, James of Alexandria, Va., Jonathan of Augsburg, Germany, and Mark of Ocean Springs; mother, Nannie Aultman of Sumrall; sisters, Martha Aultman of Sumrall and Edna Lampley of Abita Springs, La.; brother, Ben of Sumrall; and two granddaughters.

Kosciusko Baptist layman George J. Thornton dies

George J. Thornton, 92, died Aug. 26 at his home in Kosciusko.

The Attala County native was a member of First Church, Kosciusko, and a graduate of Mississippi College and the University of Mississippi School of Law. He served Mississippi Baptists on the MC board of trustees, and the Mississippi Baptist Education Commission.

Thornton was active in establishing the MC School of Law, and served as chairman of the

search committee for dean of the school. He was chosen by MC as alumnus of the year for 1975.

Thornton, an attorney, was chancery clerk for Attala County, 1928-31, and was mayor of Kosciusko, 1937-38. He also served two terms as city attorney.

Thornton is survived by his wife Mary Ricks Thornton; one daughter, Mary Thornton Tucker of Meridian; brother, Thomas of Memphis; sister, Eulala Stovall of Jackson; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Renewal retreat cancelled

The Church Renewal Retreat, scheduled for Sept. 17-18 at Central Hills Retreat, has been cancelled due to insufficient registrations. The retreat was to be sponsored by the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Christian Tours Inc.

Trips currently planned.

Eureka Springs/Branson

\$230/ person — Oct. 25-28

Gatlinburg Foliage Tour

\$220/ person — Nov. 1-4

Nashville Christmas Lights

\$170/ person — Dec. 10-12

New Years Cruise to Caribbean.

Information Later.

I specialize in planning tours for Senior Adult.

Groups and/or organizing groups

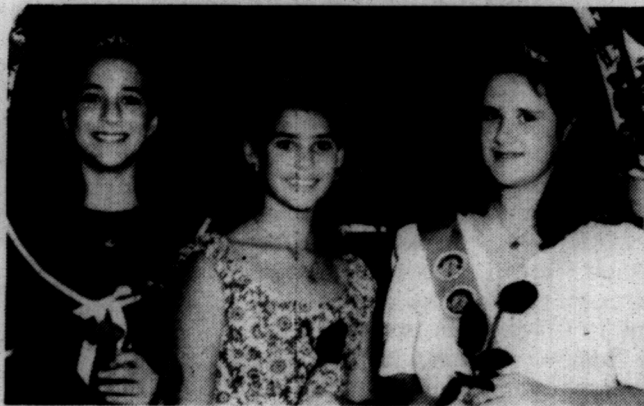
solely for your Church Group.

For information call 1-800-505-TOUR

Just for the Record



Carterville Church, Petal, held its GA/Acteen Recognition Service on July 25 with the theme of "God's Beautiful Bouquet." Thirty-seven GAs (above) received Mission Adventures badges, and four Acteens (at right) received crowns. Janet Hamm was the leader for the GAs and Acteens this past year. Leland M. Hogai is pastor.



Ladies Precept Bible study will be held at **Park Place Church, Brandon**, 9 a.m.-11 a.m., starting Sept. 14. For more information, call Rhonda Williamson at 825-0333 or call the church, 939-6282.

Southern Baptist Women in Ministry will hold its second national retreat Oct. 14-16, at Scarritt-Bennett Retreat Center in Nashville, Tenn. The two day event will begin with dinner on Thursday and conclude after lunch on Saturday. For information about registration, contact the office of Southern Baptist Women in Ministry at 2800 Frankfort Ave., Louisville, KY 40206 or phone (502) 896-4425.

Hughes Chapel Church, Tupelo, celebrated its homecoming Sunday, Aug. 22. The church now has a Brotherhood and WMU organization. The Brotherhood director is Cliff Hardy and Jean Tullos is director of WMU. The church plans before long to have Acteens, GAs, and Mission Friends. Jack Washington is pastor.

Cloverdale Church, Natchez, will host the Magnolia State Quartet in a gospel singing Sept. 10 at 7 p.m.

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center will offer a number of support groups and classes to the public. They are: Living Thru

Cancer support group, second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m.; Cardiac Rebounders support group, first Monday of each month, 7 p.m.; H.O.P.E. grief support group, third Thursday of each month, 6 p.m.; diabetes management skills, Diabetes Learning Center, various times and dates; free Breast Self Exam Class, Sept. 9, 1 p.m. and Sept. 16, 6 p.m.; Diabetes Educator Networking Group, Sept. 15, 12:30 p.m.; Resolve Through Sharing miscarriage and stillbirth support group, first Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m.; "Keeping Cholesterol Out of the Diet," 12 p.m., and "Estrogen Replacement Therapy," 5:30 p.m. both Sports Life Fitness Center, Sept. 16. For more information, call MBMC at (601) 968-3090.

Partnership needs vols for 1994 Zimbabwe projects

In the past two years, several Mississippi volunteers have experienced the birth of more than 10 new churches in Zimbabwe.

Since spring, one new church was started in Zvimba. On Easter Sunday, this church baptized 56 and on Aug. 1, it baptized another 73. These converts participated in Bible studies to understand the meaning of their commitment.

They are presently making bricks by hand to construct a building to seat 350 people. They have made 27,000 bricks so far, and will need 15,000 more to complete the building.

The Mississippi-Zimbabwe Partnership needs volunteers for 1994, the final year of the cooperative effort. Travel cost is down to \$2,048 and the support system enables volunteers to experience evangelism and missions in their finest expressions.

Project dates for 1994 are: Jan. 17-Feb. 3; Feb. 21-Mar. 10; May 9-26; June 13-30; July 18-Aug. 4; Sept. 19-Oct. 6; and Oct. 24-Nov. 10.

For more information, contact Bill Hardy in the Partnership Missions Office: P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205; telephone (601) 968-3800.

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Revival Dates

Union Hall, Brookhaven: Sept. 12-15; Sunday, fellowship meal following regular services and 1 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 6:45 p.m.; James E. Messer Sr., Theodore, Ala., evangelist; John McDonald, interim pastor.

East McComb, McComb: Sept. 12-15; Sunday, 9:40 a.m. Bible study, 11 a.m. worship, 5 p.m. Discipleship Training, and 6 p.m. worship; Mon.-Wed., 12 noon luncheon and 7 p.m. worship; Billy Hines, director of evangelism, New Mexico Convention, evangelist; Randy Carruth, McComb, music; Ricky E. Kennedy, pastor.

Burns (Smith): Sept. 12-14; 7 p.m. services; Danny Chaney, pastor of Liberty, (Smith), evangelist; Tommy N. Tanner, pastor.

Pleasant Hill, Olive Branch: Youth Revival; Sept. 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Archie Goodwin, New Hope, New Albany, evangelist; Chester Beasley, Mineral Wells, Olive Branch, music; Lewis Ferrell, pastor.

Enon (Winston): Sept. 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Cornell Daughtry, First, Rosedale, evangelist; Reggie Lovorn, Enon, music; Robert Jackson, pastor.

Homecomings

Twin Lakes, Jackson: Sept. 12; 14th anniversary; Sunday School, 8:30 a.m.; worship, 9:30 a.m.; dinner on the grounds following morning worship; Julius Thompson, director, Administration-Pastoral Ministries, MBCB, guest speaker; Bill Stanford, pastor.

Gamari Road, Greenville: Sept. 19; beginning 10:30 a.m.; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall, noon; singing, 1 p.m.; no night service; David Lee, Benoit, guest speaker; Jack DeMoney, pastor.

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Concord (Tippah): Sept. 12-15; Sunday, regular times; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Foley, New Albany, evangelist; Jerry Crawford, Wheeler Church, music; Robert E. Walker, pastor.

Faith, Starkville: Sept. 22; one-day revival; 6:30 p.m.; Moody Adams, evangelist; Blaine Allen, pastor.

Lynn Ray Road, Petal: Sept. 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; 7 nightly; Dale Patterson, Pensacola, Fla., evangelist; Charles Walker, music; Emmett Boone, pastor.

Jerry Simon killed, Ala.

Former Mississippi pastor Jerry Simon died Aug. 26 after being shot by a gunman on the parking lot of Valley Fellowship Church in Huntsville, Ala. Simon, 52, has been pastor of the interdenominational church for nearly 10 years. Funeral services were held Aug. 29 at the church.

Simon was pastor of Spring Cottage Church, Columbia, and Calvary Church, Hattiesburg, prior to serving as a Southern Baptist missionary in Uganda and Taiwan. He was a graduate of Northeast Louisiana University and New Orleans Seminary.

He is survived by his wife Carol, three children, and one granddaughter.

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Uniform In God's own image



By Michael O'Brien
Genesis 1:26-31, 2:18-25

God created (1:26-27). It would be wise to learn the lesson from and commit to your memory Genesis 1:27: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." The creation of man is unique, special, and sacred. Why? God created man "in his own image." Man and woman are created in the very image of God. This one fact, regardless of personal feelings, should heighten our respect and appreciation for all persons. Life is precious to God because in his divine plan he created man like himself. He became involved with man when he entered into the world in the person of his son, Jesus Christ.

The manner in which God chose to do this is the very reason we should hold all life, even the unborn, as sacred. God could have come into the world as a grown man. He could have come into the world as a one-year-old child or a one-day-old child. However, he came into the world in a conception; a conception that took place in the womb of a virgin maiden named Mary. If at any time, from the moment the Holy Spirit came upon her (Luke 1:35), something or someone had interrupted her pregnancy, Christ could not have been born. Think about it: one month, one week, one day, one hour, or one minute after conception, if something had happened to that which was conceived in Mary, Christ would not have been born. This should settle the matter as to when life begins. It begins at conception.

God directed (1:28). God told Adam and Eve to "subdue the earth." It is apparent that God put man in charge of the earth. He did so because it was man alone whom he created in his likeness. "In his image" indicates the mental and moral nature of man, with power to reason, with intelligence, free will, conscience to know right from wrong, and the ability to communicate with God. Man can know God and have fellowship with God and no other creature has this privilege. Jesus said, "Behold I stand at the door and knock, and if any man hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and sup with him, and he with me" (Rev. 3:20). To sup with the Lord means to have fellowship with him. God told the humans he had created to multiply (bare children). God created a woman for Adam, not another man. He created a woman to be exactly what man needed to carry out his plan. Man with man and woman with woman is against God's plan.

God provided (Gen. 2:18). God noted that it was not good for Adam to be alone; he would need a companion. Keep in mind as you read Chapter 2 that in Chapter 1, the Lord had created animals. Verse 19 says the Lord God "had" formed. God's provisions are always correct, he never makes a mistake because he is God and knows better than we what our needs are.

God instructed (2:19-20). One by one the Lord brought to Adam all the creatures that he had created. He brought all of the beasts of the field and all of the birds of the air, until all of the animals and all of the birds were named. Yet verse 20 continues and declares that not a suitable companion was found for Adam.

God completed (2:21-25). God is so wonderful! He put Adam to sleep and performed the first surgery ever carried out. God took the rib and created Eve (a woman), then brought her to Adam. God, who makes no mistakes, knew what Adam needed. Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, for she was taken out of man" (v. 23). Adam knew where Eve had come from, and named her accordingly. As important as the church is, the family is the first institution created by Almighty God. With the attack on the family taking place today we should all learn how important it is to God. It is in God's plan that the husband and wife become one. One flesh is a powerful statement. A word to couples: there is never a time when you can biblically keep something from your spouse, unless you can figure some way to keep it from yourself, for the two are one.

How wonderful it was at this point! The final verse of our text tells us that they knew no shame and they were naked. Sin had not yet marred this beautiful creation. However, Satan was on the loose, getting ready for the attack.

O'Brien is pastor, First Church, Lexington.

Bible Book Our confidence as Christians



By Jewel P. Merritt
1 John 5:1-6, 9-15

How much are you worth? Jesus told his disciples they were more valuable than the birds of the air (Matt. 6:26). By his actions, Jesus taught that a demon-possessed man was of greater worth than a large herd of pigs. (Luke 8: 27-35) How much are you worth? You are worth the precious blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (John 3: 16-17)! Such a thought should inspire our highest love, devotion, and loyalty. We can walk through this life with confidence because of God's love for us.

Victory through faith in Christ (vv. 1-5). In verses 1 and 2 John spoke of believers loving God the Father and loving his children also. I taught school for many years. I can say truly that I loved the children I taught. There were two children whom I loved the most. They were our sons, Jim and Greg. Now I am a grandmother. I love the grandchildren of my friends. But the three grandchildren I love the most are my own.

So it is in God's family. "God is love" (1 John 4:8b). If we love our heavenly Father, we will love his children as well. As Christians our love is to include our neighbors. The people we love the most are family members, other believers. This is not always easy to do. One of the wonderful things about the Lord is that he gives us the strength equal to the tasks or commands he has given. We can love others because he has first loved us. Who is it that overcomes the sinful pattern of the world? "He that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God" (5:5b). Our confidence is not in ourselves. Our confidence is in Jesus Christ, God's one and only Son.

Witnesses who encourage faith in Christ (vv. 6, 9-13). There are different interpretations of these verses. The most widely accepted is that false teachers were teaching that Jesus was born and died a mere man. Among other things, these false teachers believed that God's Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism but left him before his death on the cross. John stated that Jesus was fully the Son of God at the time of his baptism and at the time of his sacrificial death on the cross. If those two witnesses, his baptism and the cross, were not enough, the Spirit bears witness to the divinity of Christ. John goes on to say in verse 9 that we accept the testimony of two or three witnesses as being valid (also in Deut. 19:15).

Some people buy, read, and believe every word printed in the tabloids. Others listen to, and accept as truth, every word spoken by certain commentators. How great our confidence should be in the witnesses John lists here — the water (Jesus' baptism), the blood (his death on the cross), and the Spirit of God! In verse 10 John adds a fourth witness, our own personal experience with the Lord. Because we have accepted Christ as Lord and Savior, we have confidence that God has given us eternal life. John states in verse 13 that he has written all these words so that we may know that we have eternal life.

If this is our confidence, joy, and hope, what a great sin it is to keep this glorious news to ourselves! Our Lord, who loves all people, wants us to love all people also. The greatest way to show we love them is by following Jesus' command, "... As the Father has sent me, I am sending you" (John 20:21). Even the most casual reading of the gospels shows Jesus sharing God's love with all kinds of people. We are to do the same.

Confidence in prayer (vv. 14-15). Aren't you constantly amazed that the Lord God listens to us when we pray? There are some who teach that God wants his children to be well, rich, and have every desire of their hearts. John states clearly that prayer is to be offered according to his will. William Barclay said, "We are so apt to think that prayer is asking God for what we want, whereas true prayer is asking God for what he wants." When we pray in this manner, seeking God's will, we can have confidence in our prayers.

Merritt is a member of First Church, Jackson.

Life and Work Good grief!



By Mark A. Rathel
Psalm 23:4; John 11:25-26;
1 Thes. 4:13-18; Rev. 21:4

At the time of sorrow and pain caused by the death of a loved one, we desperately desire a word from God. The Bible does not disappoint us; numerous promises occur in the Bible concerning God's presence and strength available to grieving believers. The passages for study in this lesson specifically promise the presence of God, the continuation of life with Christ after physical death, a resurrection reunion for believers, and a glorious destiny of shared life in the presence of God.

God is present in death (Ps. 23:4). Using the beautiful image of a shepherd, David spoke of God's care and provision. God provides rest for our weariness, refreshment for our weaknesses, and restoration for our wanderings. The point of the Shepherd image is that God provides for the deepest needs of life. Certainly, God provides for the deep need in the grieving process.

The phrase "valley of the shadow of death" literally means "place of deep gloom, black darkness." The phrase refers to any dark and gloomy experience in life. Life has many valleys: sickness, loneliness, depression, failure, the death of a family through divorce. The deepest, darkest valley, though, is death. God is present with his people in whatever valley through which they walk, especially death.

God brings his people through the valleys of darkness. Vance Havner reflected on his grief experience after the death of his wife of 36 years. "I'm still in the valley and I'm walking through it, not wallowing in it."

Jesus promised life everlasting (John 11:25-26). When death occurs, Jesus shares the pain of the family. Jesus wept in response to the grief of Lazarus' family (11:35). Prior to his journey to be with the family, Jesus announced that he would raise Lazarus from the dead (11:11). The tears of Jesus, therefore, were not shed at his personal grief; he knew Lazarus would come forth out of the grave. Jesus wept because of the pain the family experienced.

Jesus is the resurrection and the life. As the resurrection, Jesus gives spiritual life beyond physical death (11:25). As the Life, Jesus does not allow physical death to terminate spiritual life (11:26).

Jesus challenged Martha with a personal question, "Do you believe this?" Martha responded with the greatest confession of faith recorded in the New Testament. Peter confessed, "You are the Christ" during a spiritual retreat (Matt. 16:16). Martha made her confession in the pit of despondency, despair, heartache, and grief.

When a family member dies, Jesus challenges individuals with the same question he asked Martha, "Do you believe?" Through God's help, grief can be a growing experience for a Christian.

The resurrection is a reunion (1 Thes. 4:13-18). Doctrine serves a practical purpose. Here, Paul instructed the Christians in Thessalonica concerning the resurrection for the practical purpose that they might not grieve as non-Christians. Paul characterized non-Christian grief as without hope. Apart from the resurrection of Christ, there is no hope of a meaningful afterlife, no hope of a reunion, and no hope of eternal fellowship with God.

Jesus will come again! Departed Christians enter immediately into the presence of the Lord; Jesus will bring these departed believers with him at the second coming. Christians are to comfort one another with the twin truths that they will be "together with them" and "with the Lord."

No grief in heaven (Rev. 21:4). John characterized heaven by the absence of that which causes pain and heartache. When God establishes his new order, death and the consequent pain will cease to exist. What will make the New Jerusalem heavenly is the presence of God among his people (v. 3).

Rathel is pastor, Bay Vista Church, Biloxi.



Building, working together

A work team from Eastlawn Church, Jackson County, recently completed the renovation to the church's family center. The work was part of a "Together We Will" emphasis, with an offering goal of \$13,240. Tallies of the gifts so far have exceeded \$15,160. Included in the project were the family center renovation, roof repairs, and the purchase of a new copier and carpet cleaner.

Diverse pastors promote foreign missions offering

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — Three pastors drawn from the spectrum of theological views in the Southern Baptist Convention are heading up an effort to raise more money for the denomination's foreign missions effort.

In a late August letter, John Bisagno, First Church, Houston, Texas; Frank Pollard, First Church, Jackson; and Dan Yearly, North Phoenix (Ariz.) Church urged 100 pastors to increase their churches' gifts to the Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions, collected in Southern Baptist congregations during the Christmas season.

Contributions to the offering — which is expected to provide about 45% of the SBC Foreign Mission Board's \$185 million 1994 budget — have leveled off during the last five years, hovering in the \$80 million range. That, combined with a decline in gifts to the Cooperative Program, the denomination's primary financial source, have led to cuts in capital investment overseas and a downsizing last May in the board's home office that eliminated 37 jobs.

FMB trustees hope gifts to this year's \$85 million offering will be boosted by appeals from the three widely-known pastors.

Although all three are generally viewed as conservative theologically, each has taken a different stance in the turmoil accompanying the recent shift to the right in the SBC.

Bisagno has supported the conservative movement and has close ties with its leaders.

Yearly has maintained a low profile in the controversy, but he did speak at the 1990 meeting that led to the formation of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization of moderates that disagrees with the SBC's new conservative emphasis. He also aided the Fellowship's Hurricane Andrew relief operation while pastor of a Miami church.

Pollard is often described as "non-aligned."

The three are representative of all Southern Baptists, said Don Sewell, the FMB's director of special projects, who is providing staff support for the effort.

Caseyville Church marks 125 years

The Philadelphia Church, Caseyville, will celebrate its 125th anniversary Sept. 19.

The day's events will include Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the ground, noon; and a service of song, church history, and special recognition at 2 p.m.

Guest speaker will be Eugene Dobbs, administrative assistant for ministry, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Kids with special needs — Encourage learning disabled students in the classroom and in Sunday School

By Katherine F. Wright

It is estimated that one out of every 10 children in America is learning disabled. That is, a severe discrepancy exists between their intellectual potential and actual achievement in language skills, reading, written expression, or math. These students are more like their peers than unlike them. Most all students have strengths and weaknesses, but all children are capable of learning.

Learning disabled students are often sent to resource rooms for remediation. They lack the same abilities to learn all the information and skills taught in the regular classroom. They tend to be easily distracted and cannot process information at the same pace as their peers.

All too often, the learning disabled student, along with other students in special education classes, are stigmatized and labeled by regular education students and teachers alike.

During a recent seminar, one of my colleagues was speaking to a group of teachers on the subject of mainstreaming. This is where students from the special education classes attend regular classes to benefit them. As she was speaking, a teacher in the audience rudely interrupted and proclaimed, "If I had wanted to teach those idiots, I would have chosen the field of special education, and now they are being forced on me!"

Another special education teacher took her students to the

lunchroom and as they were being seated, a regular ed teacher stood to her feet and told her students to follow her to another area of the cafeteria. What did this convey to the learning disabled students, and what was the regular ed teacher teaching her students?

Children decide who they are based on the feedback of other people.

Whether you are a school teacher or a Sunday School teacher, you are in a God-given position to serve and love. These children are not here for us. We are here for them. Teaching and reaching all students is what we are trained for. If students could teach themselves, they would not need us. You may be the only Jesus they ever see. You may give the only love they ever receive.

What an honor and privilege we have to show the same love for them that God has for us. Many of these children come from broken homes and they are broken-hearted. Many of them are told they are stupid, no good, and can't do anything right. Their self-esteem has been shattered long before they ever reach your class.

It is not difficult to work with the learning disabled student. Treat him fairly and be consistent with him, just as you would any other student. Accept him and do not stigmatize him due to poor academic abilities, low socio-economic status, or personal appearance.

ance. This student, no matter what age, wants to be treated the same as his peers and does not want to be conspicuous.

Here are a few helpful suggestions for teaching the learning disabled student:

— **Provide praise.** This has proven to be one of the greatest motivators of all times. Find something to praise him for.

— **Provide specific positive feedback.** This increases a child's interest because it is directly related to their competence.

— **Never surprise him.** Ask him in advance if he could read a selection so he can prepare and not be embarrassed. Also, ask the child to work a problem on the board that he/she has already answered correctly on paper.

— **Never force a child with a speech deficiency to speak before the class.** Ask first in private if he would like to.

— **Ensure success.** Some students are terrified when they see a board full of work. Give them one problem at a time. When they complete that problem, give them another.

— **Eliminate embarrassing situations.** Never say to the special ed teacher in your room, "You work with your kids, and I'll work with mine." Remember, learning disabled students wish to remain non-conspicuous.

Make sure we are setting our students up for success and not failure. Each one entrusted to us must be dealt with on an individual basis. We must not rob them of the education they are entitled to. If we fail on our part as teachers and parents, we are setting our children up for failure which results in poor self-image, increased drop-out rate, and increased social costs.

We can pay now, or pay the price later.

Wright, a Petal resident, is completing a master's degree in special education.



GLORIETA, N.M. — Three-year-old Erin White and her brother, Ben, 6, enjoy themselves on a playground at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center. Looking on is their mother, Gay, who was attending a series of special education workshops during the Church Growth-Sunday School Leadership Conference this summer. While the needs of learning-disabled students and those of the mentally handicapped are vastly different, Southern Baptist churches are finding ways to meet them. Through the Baptist Sunday School Board's Special Education Section of the Special Ministries Department, materials are available for learning disabled, mentally handicapped, and physically handicapped persons, as well as their teachers. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

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Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Matthew Five: Sixteen.

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